



COOPERATIVE CROP REPORTING SERVICE

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No. 123

RALEIGH, N. C.

DECEMBER 5, 1952

State, U.S. Prices Received Still On Decline

INDEX OF U. S. PRICES DOWN FIVE POINTS FROM OCT. 15

Prices Paid Down One Point

Lower prices for meat animals, cotton, fruit, and corn dropped the Index of Prices Received by U. S. Farmers as of November 15, 1952 by 5 points (2 percent) from a month earlier. Increases in prices of commercial truck crops, food grains, and poultry and eggs partially offset the effect of these declines.

During the same period the Index of Prices Paid by U. S. Farmers including Interest, Taxes, and Wage Rates (Parity Index) dropped one point (one-third of one percent). This decline resulted from lower prices for feeder livestock, feed, food, and items bought for household operation. These declines were, however, nearly offset by higher prices paid for clothing, building materials, and gasoline.

As a result of the greater decline in the Index of Prices Received than in the Parity Index, the Parity Ratio (Ratio of the Index of Prices Received to the Parity Index) dropped to 99. This is the first month the Parity Ratio has been below 100 since June of 1950.

TOTAL LEAF INVENTORIES LARGER THAN LAST YEAR

Leaf tobacco inventories of all types totaled 3,951 million pounds (farm-sales-weight) as of October 1, 1952. This represents a 5 percent increase over the same quarter last year when 3,760 million pounds were reported by dealers and manufacturers in the United States and Puerto Rico. Larger stocks of flue-cured and Burley, the two major kinds of tobacco, accounted for most of the increase. During the third quarter, July - September 1952, growers marketed approximately 775 million pounds of leaf compared with around

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"ALL FARM PRODUCTS" INDEX OFF 25 POINTS IN STATE

The "All Farm Products" index of prices received by North Carolina farmers at local markets dropped 25 points during the month ended November 15. All commodity indexes except poultry and dairy products declined during the month. The November 15 "All Farm Products" index of 299 compares with an index of 324 a year ago and an index of 317 on November 15, 1950.

The grains commodity index declined 4 points due to a drop of 12 cents per bushel in corn prices. Wheat and oats made slight gains while rye and barley declined a few cents per bushel.

The decrease of two cents per pound for cotton lint and three dollars per ton for cottonseed caused the cotton and cottonseed index to drop 20 points.

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COTTON PICKERS RECEIVING HIGHEST WAGES IN HISTORY

North Carolina cotton growers are paying the highest wages in history for harvesting the current crop, and rates per hundred pounds for the United States as a whole also are the highest they have ever been.

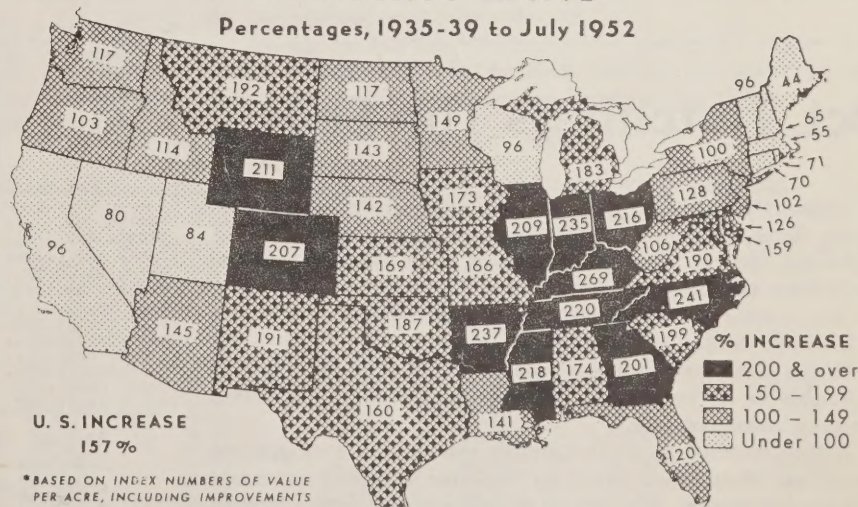
Based on estimates up to November 1, this year's average rate in North Carolina is \$3.50 per hundred pounds as compared with \$3.35 per hundred pounds up to November 1 last year. The average rate for the Nation is \$3.05 this year compared with \$3.00 in 1951.

The North Carolina rate is third highest of the cotton-producing states compared with Missouri's rate of \$3.85 and California's average of \$3.60.

(Continued on Page 4)

INCREASE IN DOLLAR VALUE OF FARM LAND*

Percentages, 1935-39 to July 1952



N. C. Milk Production Is Reported Higher

Cows on North Carolina farms produced four million more pounds of milk in October than they did during the same period last year.

Last month's milk production was estimated at 135,000,000, compared with 131,000,000 pounds produced in October, 1951 and 123,000,000 pounds on the 10-year (1941-50) average for October. Milk production for September of this year was estimated at 144,000,000 pounds.

In the United States as a whole, October production was estimated at 8,578,006,000 pounds compared with 8,528,000,000 pounds produced in October 1951 and the 10-year average of 8,577,000,000 pounds, September production for the United States this year was estimated at 9,060,000,000 pounds.

PRICES RECEIVED BY FARMERS NOVEMBER 15, 1952
WITH COMPARISONS

COMMODITY	UNIT	NORTH CAROLINA		U. S.
		OCT. 15 1952	Nov. 15 1952	Nov. 15 1952
- DOLLARS -				
CORN.....	BU.	1.81	1.69	1.45
WHEAT.....	BU.	2.05	2.09	2.13
OATS.....	BU.	1.07	1.09	.845
BARLEY.....	BU.	1.50	1.48	1.43
RYE.....	BU.	2.70	2.55	1.79
SOYBEANS.....	BU.	2.55	2.60	2.71
COWPEAS.....	BU.	4.00	-	-
PEANUTS.....	LB.	.12	.11	.108
COTTON.....	LB.	.377	.350	.3405
COTTONSEED.....	TON	73.00	70.00	69.70
WOOL.....	LB.	.51	.51	.499
HOGS.....	CWT.	19.40	17.50	16.70
BEEF CATTLE.....	CWT.	18.00	17.50	21.30
VEAL CALVES.....	CWT.	22.30	22.80	23.60
SHEEP.....	CWT.	10.50	9.50	7.25
LAMBS.....	CWT.	26.00	24.10	20.90
MILK COWS.....	HEAD	161.00	154.00	221.00
CHICKENS.....	LB.	.272	.279	.264
EGGS.....	DOZ.	.568	.60	.519
MILK, WHLSE.....	CWT.	6.15a/	6.25b/	5.38b/
RETAIL.....	QT.	.219	.219	.214
BUTTER.....	LB.	.56	.57	-
BUTTERFAT.....	LB.	.60	.60	.723
HAY, ALL BALED.....	TON	33.90	32.80	26.00
POTATOES.....	BU.	2.75	2.80	2.17
SWEET POTATOES.....	BU.	3.20	3.10	3.11
APPLES COMMERCIAL.....	BU.	1.90	2.00	2.82
LESPEDEZA SEED.....	CWT.	16.60	15.60	16.10
KOREAN.....	CWT.	15.50	14.00	-
KOBE.....	CWT.	17.50	17.00	-
COM. & TENN. 76.....	CWT.	20.00	20.00	-
SERICEA.....	CWT.	22.00	21.00	-

a/ Revised b/ Preliminary

Oct. Hatchings Top Sept.

Commercial hatcheries in North Carolina produced 3,611,000 chicks during October. This is about one percent more than the September hatch of 3,583,000 chicks, but is 10.4 percent less than the October 1951 hatch.

The October hatch exceeded the 1946-50 average October hatch of 2,058,000 chicks by 75.5 percent.

Chicks hatched from January through October of this year totaled 53,714,000 or 5.1 percent more than the total of 51,119,000 during the same period last year.

Prices received by North Carolina hatcheries for straight run heavy and cross breed chicks on November 1 showed no change from a month earlier. The price of straight run light breeds increased from \$15.00 to \$16.00 during the month.

NORTH CAROLINA AND UNITED STATES INDEX NUMBERS
(N. C. PRICES RECEIVED 1909-14 = 100 PERCENT)

COMMODITY	OCT. 15 1952	NOV. 15 1952	NOV. 15 1951	NOV. 15 1950	NOV. 15 1949
NORTH CAROLINA INDEX NUMBERS					
ALL FARM PRODUCTS..	324	299	324	317	249
COTTON & COTTONSEED	299	279	317	332	220
GRAINS.....	198	194	188	181	164
MEAT ANIMALS.....	353	335	408	384	312
POULTRY.....	275	288	298	258	273
DAIRY PRODUCTS.....	253	255	248	232	227
TOBACCO.....	399	352 a/	381	468	308
MISCELLANEOUS.....	290	281	264	218	211
RATIO OF PRICES RECEIVED TO PAID..	118	106	114	121	104
UNITED STATES INDEX NUMBERS					
PRICES RECEIVED....	282	277	301	276	239
PRICES PAID					
INTEREST & TAXES..	282	281	284	263	240
RATIO OF PRICES RECEIVED TO PAID..	100	99	106	105	100

a/ Types 11, 12

b/ Ratio of N. C. prices received to U. S. prices paid.

N. C. PRICES RECEIVED (Continued)

The tobacco index decreased 47 points due to a decrease of two cents per pound for Type 11 tobacco and eight cents per pound for Type 12 tobacco.

The meat animals index decreased 18 points due to lower prices for hogs, beef cattle, sheep and lambs. The price received for veal calves was unchanged from the previous month. This is the seventh consecutive month in which beef cattle prices have declined.

The poultry index increased 13 points as a result of higher prices for both chickens and eggs.

Slightly higher wholesale milk and farm butter prices caused an increase of 2 points in the dairy products index.

The ratio of prices received by North Carolina farmers to prices paid by U. S. farmers declined 12 points during the month ended November 15.

COMPARISON OF U. S. PRICES RECEIVED BY FARMERS
AND PARITY PRICES

COMMODITY	PRICES RECEIVED BY FARMERS		PARITY OR COMPARABLE PRICES		AVERAGE PRICES AS PERCENTAGE OF PARITY	
	OCT. 15 1952	NOV. 15 1952	OCT. 15 1952	NOV. 15 1952	OCT. 15 1952	NOV. 15 1952
- DOLLARS -						
COTTON, LB.....	.37	.3405	.344	.342	108	100
WHEAT, BU.....	2.07	2.13	2.45	2.44	84	87
CORN, BU.....	1.53	1.45	1.78	1.77	86	82
OATS, BU.....	.828	.845	.944c/	.935c/	88	90
BARLEY, BU.....	1.42	1.43	1.45c/	1.45c/	98	99
RYE, BU.....	1.74	1.79	1.66	1.65	105	108
BEEF CATTLE, CWT.	22.00	21.30	20.80	20.70	106	103
HOGS, CWT.....	18.60	16.70	21.10	21.00	88	80
LAMBS, CWT.....	22.20	20.90	22.80	22.70	97	92
CHICKENS, LB.....	.242	.264	.319	.318	76	83
EGGS, DOZ.....	.504	.519	.507c/	.504c/	85d/	88d/
MILK, WHLSE, CWT.	5.28a/	5.38b/	4.74	4.72	104a/d/	104d/

a/ Revised b/ Preliminary c/ Transitional parity 85% (80% during 1951) of parity price computed under formula in use prior to January 1, 1950.

d/ Percentage of seasonally adjusted prices to parity prices.

AVERAGE PRICES PAID BY NORTH CAROLINA AND UNITED STATES FARMERS FOR SPECIFIED FOOD ITEMS WITH COMPARISONS, 1951-1952

ITEMS	UNIT	NORTH CAROLINA			UNITED STATES		
		JUNE 15 1952	SEPT. 15 1952	SEPT. 15 1951	JUNE 15 1952	SEPT. 15 1952	SEPT. 15 1951
- CENTS -							
SUGAR.....	PER 10 LBS.	105.0	105.0	105.0	105.0	108.0	105.0
FLOUR.....	PER 25 LBS.	210.0	205.0	210.0	216.0	213.0	214.0
BREAD, WHITE.....	PER LB.	16.6	16.8	16.5	16.3	16.5	15.9
CORN MEAL.....	PER LB.	6.3	6.9	6.0	7.28	7.92	7.03
ROLLED OATS, PACKAGED..	PER LB.	16.0	16.0	15.0	13.9	14.0	13.6
RICE.....	PER LB.	18.9	-	-	18.3	-	-
BACON.....	PER LB.	55.0	60.0	60.0	55.0	60.9	60.0
ROUND STEAK.....	PER LB.	100.0	97.0	105.0	98.3	96.5	100.0
PORK CHOPS.....	PER LB.	-	-	-	68.4	72.4	69.4
LARD.....	PER LB.	20.2	19.8	26.0	19.8	18.7	25.8
BUTTER.....	PER LB.	82.0	85.0	81.0	81.5	84.7	79.0
CHEESE, AMERICAN.....	PER LB.	61.0	62.0	61.0	61.2	62.2	60.0
COFFEE.....	PER LB.	87.0	86.0	86.0	87.8	87.9	88.4
TEA, ORANGE PEKOE.....	PER LB.	130.0	-	-	133.0	-	-
ORANGES, 216'S.....	PER DOZ.	33.0	41.0	46.0	45.9	48.5	48.3
BANANAS.....	PER LB.	14.9	14.8	14.9	17.5	17.1	16.9
APPLES, FRESH.....	PER LB.	12.5	10.2	9.5	16.8	13.1	11.0

FARMERS PAYING MORE FOR SOME FOOD ITEMS

Prices paid by North Carolina farmers for some food items were higher on September 15, 1952 than on June 15, 1952. (See table above).

The items that increased in price during this period were bread, corn meal, bacon, butter, American cheese and oranges. The price of sugar and rolled oats was unchanged. Flour, round steak, lard, coffee, bananas and apples were lower in price on September 15, 1952 than on June 15, 1952.

The trend in prices paid by U. S. farmers for food was slightly higher than that of Tar Heel farmers.

More cattle and calves will be sold by farmers this fall than last, with a higher proportion marketed off of grass.

MOST FEED PRICES LOWER TO UNCHANGED

Prices of most feeds purchased by North Carolina farmers declined or remained unchanged for the month ended November 15.

All mixed dairy and high protein feeds showed declines ranging from 5 to 20 cents per hundredweight.

In the grain by-products group, all items remained the same as a month ago except corn meal which dropped 10 cents per hundredweight.

Laying mash at \$5.40 was down 10 cents per hundred pounds while scratch grain was unchanged.

Feed prices throughout the United States went down for all items except corn gluten which held steady at the previous month's price.

FEED PRICES PAID BY FARMERS NOVEMBER 15, 1952

WITH COMPARISONS

FEED PER HUNDREDWEIGHT	NORTH CAROLINA		UNITED STATES	
	OCT. 15 1952	NOV. 15 1952	OCT. 15 1952	NOV. 15 1952
- DOLLARS -				
MIXED DAIRY FEED UNDER 29% PROTEIN				
ALL.....	4.45	4.35	4.42	4.38
16% PROTEIN.....	4.25	4.15	4.31	4.27
18% PROTEIN.....	4.45	4.35	4.45	4.39
20% PROTEIN.....	4.70	4.65	4.55	4.52
29% PROTEIN.....	5.70	5.50	5.68	5.41
HIGH PROTEIN FEEDS				
LINSEED MEAL.....	-	-	5.44	5.
SOYBEAN MEAL.....	5.50	5.30	5.80	5.46
COTTONSEED MEAL.....	4.65	4.60	5.25	5.22
MEAT SCRAP.....	6.80	6.50	6.64	6.44
GRAIN BY-PRODUCTS				
BRAN.....	4.10	4.10	3.71	3.70
MIDDINGS.....	4.30	4.30	3.90	3.88
CORN MEAL.....	4.95	4.85	4.26	4.08
CORN GLUTEN.....	-	-	4.23	4.23
POULTRY FEED				
LAYING MASH.....	5.50	5.40	5.27	5.20
SCRATCH GRAIN.....	4.75	4.75	4.60	4.54

SLIGHT DECREASES NOTED IN FURNITURE PRICES

North Carolina farmers were paying slightly lower prices for most furniture items on September 15, 1952 than on June 15, 1952. However, prices for most items are still above the averages quoted for the previous year (September 15, 1951).

Average prices paid by farmers for specified furniture items around September 15, 1952 for North Carolina were generally lower than those for the U. S. (See the accompanying table).

AVERAGE PRICES PAID BY NORTH CAROLINA AND UNITED STATES FARMERS FOR FURNITURE WITH COMPARISONS, 1951-1952

ITEM	UNIT	NORTH CAROLINA			UNITED STATES		
		JUNE 15 1952	SEPT. 15 1952	SEPT. 15 1951	JUNE 15 1952	SEPT. 15 1952	SEPT. 15 1951
- DOLLARS -							
RUGS, AXMINSTER, 9' x 12'.....	EACH	78.00	80.00	81.00	85.70	85.60	90.50
RUGS, FELT BASE, 9' x 12'.....	EACH	11.50	11.00	11.00	10.60	10.40	10.40
DINING-ROOM SUITES.....	EACH	245.00	235.00	220.00	237.00	241.00	233.00
LIVING-ROOM SUITES.....	EACH	160.00	150.00	150.00	182.00	185.00	184.00
BEDROOM SUITES.....	EACH	160.00	150.00	160.00	172.00	174.00	172.00
BEDSTEADS, METAL, DOUBLE.....	EACH	15.00	15.00	15.00	15.30	15.40	15.40
MATTRESSES 54", FELTED COTTON.....	EACH	30.50	29.00	28.00	24.50	24.80	24.30
BED SPRINGS, DOUBLE, SAGLESS.....	EACH	20.00	19.00	18.00	18.90	19.20	18.50
KITCHEN CABINETS.....	EACH	56.00	57.00	56.00	58.70	59.60	58.50
STOVES, 6-HOLE KITCHEN RANGE.....	EACH	100.00	99.00	98.60	116.00	119.00	116.00
WASHING MACHINE, WRINGER TYPE, ELEC.	EACH	135.00	135.00	141.00	132.00	134.00	
WASHING MACHINE, AUTOMATIC, ELEC...	EACH	285.00	290.00		291.00	294.00	

FARM REPORT

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DECEMBER 5, 1952

FARM REPORT

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LEAF INVENTORIES (Cont'd)

865 million during the corresponding quarter last year. The marketings this year consisted of about 745 million pounds of flue-cured with Maryland and cigar-leaf making up the balance.

Stocks as of October 1, 1952 included about 432 million pounds (farm-sales-weight) of tobacco under government loans. This consisted of approximately 202 million pounds of flue-cured leaf; 123 million of Burley; 50.0 million of fire-cured; 7.8 of Maryland; 30.5 million of dark air-cured, and 19.0 million of cigar leaf.

For the southern types, flue-cured stocks as of October 1, 1952 were up 6 percent over a year ago, while Burley had increased 8 percent and Maryland 13 percent. Fire-cured holdings were almost the same as a year earlier and dark air-cured stocks were only 2 percent larger. For the cigar-leaf types, stocks of the cigar filler types were down slightly, stocks of the binder types showed a 5 percent decrease and cigar-wrapper holdings were down 4 percent from the previous October 1. For the foreign-grown types, stocks of foreign-grown cigarette leaf were 4 percent below a year earlier, whereas stocks of foreign-grown cigar-leaf were slightly larger.

Compared with June 1948 prices, family living costs had increased 41 percent by June 1952. In the same period, building materials increased 87 percent, food and tobacco, 52 percent, and autos and auto supplies 53 percent. In contrast not a single one of the three other commodity groups had increased as much as 30 percent. Least changed was clothing with only a 25 percent increase in the six-year period.

NORTH CAROLINA & UNITED STATES LIVESTOCK SLAUGHTER, OCTOBER 1951-52*

SPECIES	NORTH CAROLINA				UNITED STATES			
	NUMBER SLAUGHTERED		TOTAL LIVELWEIGHT		NUMBER SLAUGHTERED		TOTAL LIVELWEIGHT	
	1951 ^a	1952	1951 ^a	1952	1951 ^a	1952	1951 ^a	1952
	THOUS. HEAD	THOUS. HEAD	THOUS. POUNDS	THOUS. POUNDS	THOUS. HEAD	THOUS. HEAD	THOUS. POUNDS	THOUS. POUNDS
CATTLE..	12.3	12.2	9,799	9,522	1,601.3	1,869.4	1,507,290	1,748,206
CALVES..	4.3	4.1	669	704	836.1	964.0	192,470	234,151
SHEEP & LAMBS..	.2	.2	18	16	1,208.0	1,572.2	114,469	146,792
HOGS....	61.0	70.0	13,819	14,764	6,949.4	6,878.0	1,586,585	1,561,082

^a/Revised * Includes slaughter under Federal inspection and other wholesale and retail slaughter, excludes farm slaughter.

RECORD HIGH COMMERCIAL HOG SLAUGHTER

Hog slaughter for the month of October set a new record high both in number and total liveweight. The 14,764,000 pounds of liveweight slaughtered was up 7% over October 1951 (the previous record high month) and was an increase of 32% over September, 1952.

Total liveweight of calves slaughtered was 8% below last month, but was a 5% increase over October 1951.

Cattle and Sheep and Lamb slaughtered in October show an increase of 16 and 14% respectively over last month's total live-

weight slaughtered, but show decreases of 3 and 11% respectively when compared with October a year ago.

The total commercial slaughter of meat animals increased during October both in number and total liveweight. The 86,500 head of all species slaughtered was a 19% increase over last month as compared to a 11.2% increase over October 1951; whereas the 25,006,000 pounds of liveweight slaughtered was an increase of 24% and 3% over last month and October 1951 respectively.

OCTOBER EGG PRODUCTION LOWER THAN LAST YEAR

Egg production on North Carolina farms during October was lower by four million eggs than it was during October of last year. However, production for the year so far has been greater than it was during the same period of 1951.

There were 88 million eggs produced during October compared with 92 million produced in October, 1951. For the period from January through October this year, there were 1,159,000,000 eggs produced as compared with 1,062,000,000 eggs produced during the same months in 1951.

The number of eggs per 100 layers for October was estimated at 1,035, as compared with 1,088 during October of last year. There were 8,510,000 layers on hand during October as compared with 8,424,000 on hand in October, 1951.

COTTON PICKERS WAGES (Cont'd)

With very few exceptions, costs for picking cotton by hand have consistently increased during the past 19 years since 1933 when the average rate in North Carolina was 48 cents per hundred pounds.